

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 14691 221325Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14691

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PR
SUBJECT: AUGUST 21 MEETING WITH MRS. MARCOS

1. THE SUBSTANCE OF MY THREE-HOUR LUNCHEON MEETING WITH MRS. MARCOS WAS RELATIVELY SLIGHT BUT HER CURRENT POINTS OF EMPHASIS AND OVERALL TONE OF MEETING WERE OF INTEREST.

2. ATTITUDE TOWARDS U.S. SHE REMAINS RESENTFUL OF TREATMENT SHE RECEIVED AT CONGRESSIONAL MEETING AND WAS NOT MOLLIFIED BY SUBSEQUENT LETTER OF APOLOGY FROM CONGRESSMAN BEDELL. (I HAD NOTED IN MEETING EARLIER SAME DAY WITH MARCOS--AND REPEATED POINT TO HER--THAT THE ROUGHNESS OF HER RECEPTION PROBABLY INEVITABLE SINCE SHE HAD ASKED BEDELL TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH SIGNERS OF APRIL 16 LETTER. PRESIDENT APPEARED PREPARED FORGET WHOLE AFFAIR NOTING HE HAD NOT KNOWN SHE PLANNED VISIT TO CONGRESS. SAID HAD HE BEEN FORWARDED, HE WOULD HAVE WRITTEN OUT LIKELY QUESTIONS AND BEST ANSWERS FOR HER. "BUT SHE IS AN IMPULSIVE GIRL" WAS HIS ONLY OTHER COMMENT.) ON WHOLE, SHE SAID, SHE FOUND CONGRESSMEN IGNORANT OF THE SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, UNDER INFLUENCE OF BIASED MEDIA REPORTING AND PREY TO UNSTABLE FILIPINO WITNESSES. HER VISIT SERVED TO CONFIRM HER GROWING FEELING THAT US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS WERE AT THEIR ALL TIME LOW. SHE BLURTED OUT HER CONVICTION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 14691 221325Z

THAT ADMINISTRATION NOT IN CONTROL OF USG AND PARTICULARLY OF CONGRESS. I TOOK HER CASE BY CASE THROUGH RECENT WHITE HOUSE SUCCESSES IN TURKISH ARMS SALES, PANAMA TREATY, PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR ENERGY LEGISLATION, ETC.

3. SOVIETS. GENERAL COMMENTS SHE MADE ABOUT HER JULY VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION SHOWED RUSSIANS DID A GOOD SNOW

JOB. SHE WAS CLEARLY FLATTERED BY KOSYGIN'S ATTENTIVENESS. I COMMENTED I KNEW THAT GIVEN HER LONG EXPERIENCE WITH AMERICANS IT SURELY HAD BEEN NO SURPRISE THAT REPS OF SUPREME SOVIET COULD BE POLITER TO DEAL WITH THAN US CONGRESS. SHE THEN SPOKE OF "ROUGHNESS" OF THE SOVIET PERSONALITY BUT SHE HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN IMPRESSED BY DEMONSTRATIONS OF SOVIET POWER, NOTING THE "MAGNIFICENT" EXTENT OF RUSSIAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE 650,000 AUTOMOBILE IN MOSCOW WHERE FEW EXISTED THREE YEARS AGO AND THE SOVIET CLAIM TO HER THAT THEY ARE NOW FIRST IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY. I POINTED OUT THE OBVIOUS PROBLEM OF SOVIET AGRICULTURE, DEMONSTRATED IN THEIR RECURRING LARGE WHEAT IMPORTS. SUGGESTED THAT THE SOVIET TENDENCY TO BOAST ABOUT "SOCIALIST ACCOMPLISHMENTS" REFLECT THEIR LONG STANDING INFERIORITY COMPLEXES VIS-A-VIS THE WEST RATHER THAN THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, EXCEPTING PERHAPS THOSE IN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY INTO WHICH THEY POURED SO MANY RESOURCES.

4. CHINA. SHE MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF CHINA. AT PRESENT, SHE ASSERTED, CHINA POSES NO THREAT TO THE PHILIPPINES ALTHOUGH IT WILL PROBABLY BE THE MAJOR THREAT TO PHILIPPINE SECURITY IN YEARS TO COME. PEKING, SHE ASSERTED, IS ALREADY AT WORK TRYING TO COOPT FILIPINOS OF CHINESE ORIGIN. SHE WORKED INTO DIATRIBE AGAINST CHINESE CHARACTER COMMENTS ON CARDINAL SIN WHO "LIKE ALL CHINESE SMILES FROM THE FRONT AND KICKS YOU FROM BEHIND."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 14691 221325Z

(SHE DID ACKNOWLEDGE HER OWN DESCENT FROM ONE GRANDFATHER OF HUNAN ORIGIN.) SHE ASKED ABOUT CODEL MONTGOMERY'S VISIT TO VIETNAM IN CONNECTION US-PRC RELATIONS. I SAID CODEL HAD LIMITED MISSION OF CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO OUR MIAS AND RECALLED SECRETARY VANCE'S ASSURANCE TO ASEAN REPRESENTATIVES THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSULTATIONS AND NO SURPRISES RE US-VIETNAM RELATIONS.

5. PHILIPPINE POLITICS. COMMENTING ON MOVEMENT TO DRAFT HER AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, SHE SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE GOOD NEITHER FOR THE PRESIDENT NOR THE COUNTRY AND NOTED SHE INTENDED MAKE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT AFTER PRESENT RECESS OF THE ASSEMBLY. (COMMENT: SHE STOPPED JUST SHORT OF STATING THAT IF ELECTED SHE WOULD NOT SERVE.

6. WE DISCUSSED WAYS TO IMPROVE PHILIPPINE IMAGE IN US. SHE PUTS GREAT STOCK IN OPENING UP PHILIPPINE CULTURAL CENTERS IN D.C. AND LOS ANGELES. I SUGGESTED THAT MARCOS DIRECT HIS EXTRAORDINARILY ABLE TECHNOCRAT CABINET MINISTERS TO WORK CONTACTS ON CAPITAL HILL INTO THEIR WASHINGTON VISITS. SHE AGREED ENTHUSIASTICALLY. SHE ALSO URGED THAT EMBASSY MANILA GIVE MORE POSITIVE PRESS BRIEF-

INGS ABOUT MARCOS REGIME TO VISITING CORRESPONDENTS. (SHE
VIEWS RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS AS HOPELESSLY BIASED.)

7. HER PERSONAL TONE WAS WARM AND CORDIAL AND WE PARTED
APPARENT FRIENDS, PLEDGING TO COOPERATE CLOSELY TO
"IMPROVE OUR COUNTRIES' RELATIONS WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT TO
THE WHOLE AREA." TO HEAR HER TALK, ALL MY PREDECESSORS
ARRIVED AT POST WEARING BLINDERS AND SPORTING THEIR BIASES.
I WONDER HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE HER TO PLACE ME IN THEIR
RANKS. MURPHY

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